

## THE POLICY OF THE NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA

AS FORMULATED AND ADOPTED BY THE NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA AT THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DOMINION COUNCIL HELD IN VICTORIA ON THE EIGHTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETEEN.

Whereas the British Empire, "A League of Free Nations," was made possible by the British Navy, has been developed under its protection, and enjoys unity and security through its power to resist and overcome enemy attack;

And whereas during the great war the unity so secured has proved of inestimable advantage to all the British Dominions;

And whereas uninterrupted freedom of intercourse between the various parts of the Empire is essential to the well-being and existence of the British Empire;

And whereas the time has now come when Canada should join the other British Dominions in relieving the overburdened British taxpayer of a portion of the immense obligation which he now carries, and should assume her full and fair share of the cost and responsibility of maintaining a united naval defence;

And whereas the naval policy of Canada, and its administration, should be determined on broad lines and in co-operation with Great Britain and the Overseas Dominions;

Be it resolved that the Navy League of Canada is in favour of a naval policy for Canada which will have regard to the needs of the whole British Empire, and in deciding upon such policy political exigencies should be disregarded and the opinion of the most eminent naval strategists alone considered;

And the fundamental idea shall be Empire Naval Defence, and that the Fleet units may be either acquired or built, and that the Dominions shall retain control of their ships, and that there shall be a complete standardization of personnel, ships and equipment, and that the whole shall be of the best, and that in times of war all the fleets shall be under one supreme command.

MESSAGE TO THE LEAGUE FROM ADMIRAL SIR FREDERICK C. D.  
STURDEE, BART. K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O.

The necessity for ensuring free and uninterrupted communication by sea, is at once apparent because the centre of this somewhat loosely formed Empire cannot produce enough food to support its population, nor enough raw material to supply work for its inhabitants; further it is geographically an island. Therefore safe sea communication in peace or war is and remains essential for the existence of its inhabitants.

The great Dominions of the British Empire are producers and can supply all the needs of the Home Country and the Empire; further to develop their wealth fully they require markets abroad. The produce has mostly to be carried across the ocean, and a sufficient armed force is therefore of great importance also to each Dominion or Colony.

Self-contained nations ensure land transport by means of networks of railways and canals which, in the event of threat, are capable of being defended by the armed forces of the country. The ocean routes form this network for the British Empire which obviously requires suitable protection by armed force, but as these routes are common to the nations of the world in times of peace, they should be free for them as well. The past record of the British Navy is sufficient to show how the rights of the ships of all nations to the freest use of these ocean highways have been most carefully respected.

The war has shown that the race has retained its former Sea instinct which, if kept alive as hitherto, will be the basis of the maintenance of our Sea Power. The greater the number of individuals who are imbued with this sea instinct, the more able and ready the Empire will be to meet danger in the future. Sea Power has saved the Empire in this war as it has always done in similar crises. This fact cannot be too widely disseminated.

(Sgd.) F. C. D. STURDEE.

OPINION OF VICE-ADMIRAL SIR ROSSLYN E. WEMYSS, G.C.B.,  
C.M.G., 1ST NAVAL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY.

*(From letter addressed to Chairman, Educational Committee  
of the League.)*

Allow me to wish all success to the Ontario Division of the Navy League of Canada in its excellent and useful work, and to congratulate you on having recently raised no less than \$1,000,000 in aid of British Naval interests and the Mercantile Marine. That such a sum can be raised in a part of the Empire so far from the Ocean proves that the inhabitants of our Empire do realise the significance and need of naval power. The menace to this for the last few years has lain in the German Fleet which was conceived and built in a purely aggressive spirit, and its surrender to the British Fleet on the 21st November, 1918, has dealt it such a blow, both morally and materially, as it cannot recover for many a generation. Not only has the enemy in this formal submission surrendered his ships, but he has also given up any hopes of attaining those moral qualities and traditions which are such essential factors in a fighting service.

Wishing you all success in your good work,

(Sgd.) R. E. WEMYSS.

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MESSAGE TO THE EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE  
FROM ADMIRAL LORD JELlicoe, O.M., G.C.B., G.C.V.O.

The primary cause of the shameful surrender of the German Fleet was the loss of morale on the part of the personnel. This was brought about by the strangling effect of Sea Power or Sea Communications, and the knowledge gained at Jutland that this Power was irresistible.

The significance of this War Empire which is absolutely dependent on Sea Power for its communications is obvious. The lesson to the Empire is that we should never allow our Sea Power to be called into question. *It is our Life Blood.*

(Sgd.) JELlicoe.

APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL WORK BY THE MINISTER OF  
EDUCATION FOR ONTARIO.

To the Joint Educational Committee Imperial Order, Daughters of the Empire and Navy League of Canada: I desire to express, personally and officially, my warmest sympathy with the objects of your joint Committee in undertaking a campaign of Naval Education by Illustrated Lectures, and otherwise, amongst the Schools of the Province of Ontario.

Anything which helps in providing information to the public and educating sentiment in the minds of the young as to the history, traditions and deeds of the British Navy and the men of the Mercantile Marine cannot but be beneficial. Its glorious record in defence of the life, liberty and ocean communications of our Empire and its protection of the freedom of the seas for all nations cannot be too strongly portrayed.

I trust you will have the cordial co-operation of School Boards, teachers and the public.

(Sgd.) H. J. CODY,  
Minister of Education.

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